

Message Text

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UNCLAS BELFAST 154

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, UK, EI

SUBJECT: EVENTS IN REPUBLIC WELCOMED IN ULSTER

REF: BELFAST 151

1. BIG NEWS IN NORTHERN IRELAND TODAY IS ON EVENTS IN DUBLIN. FIRST ITEM ALL MEDIA IS DECISION DECLARE ILLEGAL PROVISIONAL SINN FEIN MARCH NEXT SUNDAY TO COMMEMORATE SIXTIETH ANNIVERSARY EASTER RISING. ALSO PROMINENTLY FEATURED IS SPEECH BY CONOR CRUISE O' BRIEN TO AMERICAN CONGRESSMEN DENYING PARALLEL BETWEEN IRA VIOLENCE AND AMERICAN WAR OF INDEPENDENCE. NEWS OF FORMER ACTION ARRIVED TOO LATE PERMIT THOROUGH SAMPLE OF POLITICAL REACTION BUT HARRY WEST OF OFFICIAL UNIONISTS IS QUOTED AS STATING "I WELCOME THE STRONG LINE BEING TAKEN BY THE EIRE GOVERNMENT AGAINST SUBVERSIVE ORGANIZATIONS AND I ONLY WISH THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT WOULD TAKE A SIMILAR LINE IN THIS PART OF UNITED KINGDOM". IRISH NEWS THE VOICE OF RESPECTABLE REPUBLICANISM IN BELFAST DID NOT HAVE TIME PREPARE EDITORIAL TODAY BUT NEWS COVERAGE WAS THOROUGH AND STRAIGHT.

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2. WEST REACTION PROBABLY REPRESENTATIVE OF LOYALIST

VIEWS. THERE DISCERNIBLE GROWING BELIEF IN NORTH AFTER HERREMA, MANAGEMENT OF STAGG OBSEQUIES, AND TAOISEACH VISIT TO US THAT REPUBLIC DETERMINED TAKE STRONG STAND AGAINST PROVISIONALS. THIS BELIEF OBVIOUS EVEN DURING CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION AND AUGURS WELL FOR LONG-TERM POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS IN ULSTER.

3. IN OTHER EVENTS, SECSTATE MERLYN REES REVERSED COURT ORDER CONFINING FIFTEEN-YEAR OLD ACCUSED OF MURDER ATTEMPT (REFTEL) TO JUVENILE HOME (BORSTAL) AND ORDERED HIM HELD IN CRUMLIN ROAD JAIL, SCENE OF THE ATTACK ON GUARD. NORTHERN IRELAND OFFICE TODAY APPEALED APRIL 21 COURT DECISION AWARDED JOE CAHILL' S BROTHER TWENTY THOUSAND POUNDS STERLING DAMAGES FOR DISABLING WOUNDS INCURRED IN FEUD BETWEEN PROVISIONALS AND OFFICIAL IRA FIVE YEARS AGO. CONGEN SEES THESE EVENTS AS FURTHER EVIDENCE MR. REES EFFORTS TO TRANSFORM THE IMAGE OF TERRORISTS FROM POLITICAL HEROES TO COMMON CRIMINALS.

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